

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

The Examiner rejects Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the rejection.

Applicant has added new Claims 16-25, 39, and 44-45 each of which depends, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1 and are therefore allowable.

Applicant has also added new Claims 26-38 and 40-43. Claims 27-38 and 40 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 26. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 26 is allowable.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: Douglas W. Swartz  
Douglas W. Swartz  
Registration No. 37,739  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200  
Denver, Colorado 80202-5141  
(303) 863-9700

Date: Jan. 8, 2003

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Specification:**

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 6, line 15, as follows:

--An article of manufacture, such as an item of clothing having a transfer 1 applied thereto, a mouse pad, coaster, or any numerous items having a flocked surface, can be manufactured in accordance with this invention[. Is] and is easily produced using the transfer 1. Referring to FIGS. 2-5, the [The] article of manufacture 11 is produced by positioning a hot melt sheet 13 between a substrate 15 and the flocked release sheet. The hot melt sheet is, for example, a sheet of thermosetting polyester, available from Bostik, Inc. The hot melt sheet can also be made from a thermoplastic polymer, comprising polyesters, and which is available from Bostik. The hot melt sheet can also be made from a thermoplastic polyurethane. Any other thermoplastic film should also work well. The substrate 15 can be an item of clothing, a rubber pad (as for example, for producing a mouse pad or coaster), etc. The hot melt sheet can be precut to correspond to the shape of the transfer. The transfer 1 is then positioned on the hot melt sheet with the flock 7[5] against the hot melt sheet 13. Heat is applied to the transfer through the release sheet to activate the hot melt sheet. The hot melt sheet then acts to both bind the flock 7[5] together and to generally permanently adhere the flock 7[5] to the substrate 15. Preferably, to assemble the article, the flocked release sheet, the thermoplastic film, and the substrate are brought together and passed through a heat-laminating press where the three parts are subject to temperature of about 300°F to about 350°F (about 150°C) and pressure (about 40-50 psi) for about 30 seconds. It has been found that medium-to-firm pressure has been most advantageous in providing for assembly of this type of plush flocked transfer. The pressure and heat will cause the hot melt film to adhere to the flock and the substrate. Additionally, the hot melt film will physically adhere or cure, to give a strong attachment of the flock to the substrate.--

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 7, line 24, as follows:

--Articles, such as mouse pads or coasters, in which the entire top surface of the article is covered with the flocking can be produced on a continuous basis, as shown in [FIG. 5]FIGS. 3 and 5. Rolls 21, 23, and 25 of a flocked release sheet 1, the thermoplastic hot melt film 13, and the substrate 15, are provided. The three parts are brought together at a lamination station 33. Rollers can be provided in front of the station 33 so that the three elements are adjacent each other as they enter the lamination station. Rollers can be provided in front of the station 33 so that the three elements are adjacent as they enter the lamination station. In the lamination station, heat and pressure are applied to the three sheets (the flocked release sheet, the hot melt film, and the substrate) to melt the hot melt film. The melted hot melt film will then cure or cross-link, as noted above, to adhere the flock to the substrate. A web 35 exits the laminating station. The web 35 is then allowed to cool. The web 35 is ultimately directed to a cutting station where it is cut into individual articles. Once the web 35 is cooled, it can be directed immediately to a cutting station (after the sheet 35

Application No. 09/735,721

cools), or can it can be wound up on an uptake roller to be cut into individual articles at a later time, or at a different location. At the cutting station, the release sheet 3 is removed from the flock and gathered on a take-up roll or is otherwise disposed of. After the release sheet has been removed from the flock, the substrate with the flock adhered thereto is cut to form the articles 11. It is also likely that one could remove the release liner either before or after the die cutting procedure. As shown in FIG. 3, a fringe material 50 can be applied to peripheral edges of the flocked release sheet 1 or substrate 15 during this manufacturing process.--

In the Claims:

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) The article of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic [film]hot melt sheet is a thermoplastic blank or thermoplastic blank film.

A